Volume 6, Edition 12

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

December 2002

DID YOU ASK SANTA FOR THAT NEW RIG?

IF YOU WIN THE DRAWING AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, YOU CAN BUY IT YOURSELF

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

It's already December. Time has flown by, but it's nice to reflect back on the year. It has been a good one for VOMARC.

We pulled off another Hamfest and although our attendance was down from previous years, it was a fun event. Plans are in the works to increase next year's attendance. Advertising is everything and it takes time to do this. Please help.

Field day was held at a local park instead of us "hiding" in the mountains. This has given us valuable exposure to the public. Thanks to all who participated.

We supported the town of Sonoma in several events, amassing over 80 hours of volunteer time. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

We managed to preserve much of Frank Jones's early writings and his vast collection of periodicals. These can be found at the California Radio Museum.

We have welcomed several new members to the club and they are becoming involved in our activities.

Several club projects were completed, most notable is the trailer. It is progressing nicely; the floor being laid just this week. So you will see a new look next field day. Thanks to Darrel, WD6BOR, for spearheading this complicated project.

Thanks to Mike, WB6TMH, for all the help in perfecting the solar battery charger controller.

Our ARRL Special Service club status was renewed. Our web site has been improved. Thanks to Jan, AE6FQ, to doing all the work.

Our ACS unit has been very active and a model for the other communities. Thanks to Ken, N6KM, and Steve, K2IYQ, for the strong leadership.

Thanks to George, K6ITE, for stepping up to fill the vacant vice president's slot. Thanks to Jan, K9OOU, and John, W6TWK, for keeping the monthly ham breakfast at Denny's going.
It was a thrill for several of us to work Darrel as he was flying to Oshkosh, Wis. this summer.

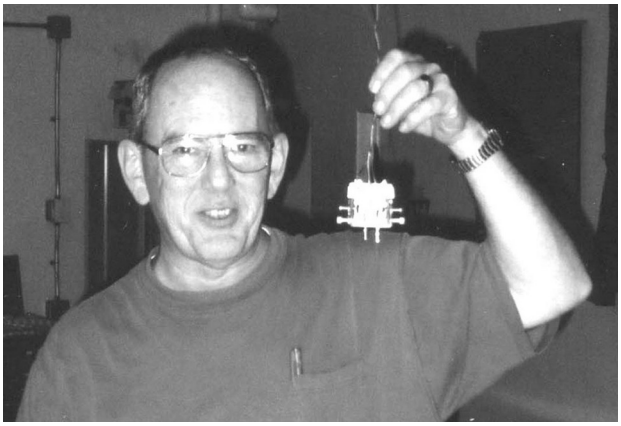
Thanks go the Randy, AA6GV, for upgrading the 146.205 machine.

We had some great programs for our meetings. If you have ideas for meeting topics, let me know.

Thanks to a great bunch of people who make up the officer ranks; couldn't do it without you.

I probably rambled on too much here and I am sure I forgot to mention someone's contribution to the club, so let me thank you all for making VOMARC a fun club. Wishing you all the healthiest and happiest of holidays.

73, Jim



A very proud K2IYQ and his Wunderpaddles

VOMARC MINUTES, NOVEMBER 20, 2002

There were 18 in attendance including Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, SF Section manager, and Jeff Basham, W2JAB, Secretary.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the newsletter and on the website.

Treasurer's report: $1500 is in the bank.

Correspondence: The bank statement, an insurance statement, the newsletter, and a QSL card from KB0QBT, South Dakota, for a contact during the kite event in September.

There are pictures on the website taken during the kite event. Also pictures of the QRP builders at Pacificon.

Radio Officer, Mike Miller, WB6TMH, gave a report on the contacts with Paula Peters,

KO6ML, and Dale Finley, KO6RA. He (and whomever wishes to join in) has a regular schedule with them at 6:30PM Tuesday nights on 14.340 - 20M. For those who have not met them, Dale and Paula are members of the club who have decided to do some extended sailing. Currently they are on their way from Cabo San Lucas to Hawaii and should land in Hawaii on Saturday, November 23rd. This week the contact was with Paula.

There is also a regular schedule with Gerhard Straub, K6XH, who moved back east with his wife Barbara, KB5EGT. This is CW on 14.052 on Friday's at 5:30.

Present at our meeting tonight was Declan Cunniff, KA2QQO, who just upgraded to Extra Class at the last VE session.

ACS report: There was a hospital drill Thursday, November 14th. Steve Todd, K2IYQ, coordinated our group. This was a state wide drill, simulating a bomb going off at a local high school and a second "dirty" bomb being detonated. The phones were knocked out and the only means of communications was ACS. The drill was very realistic. There was a good write-up on it in the Sonoma Index Tribune. The county said the results of the drill were successful and were pleased with our participation.

Discussion ensued about our participation in the drill not being mentioned in the post-drill article (it was in the pre-drill article). The consensus is that there needs to be more publicity to let the public know of the role amateur radio plays in these events. It was decided that George, K6ITE, will write an article focusing on this aspect of the drill and submitt it to the paper.

We did have a representative (Steve Todd, K2IYQ) at the local OES meeting. A presentation was made to those in attendance regarding our part in emergency services.

Bill Hillendahl made the suggestion that we find out who has written articles for the paper in the past and make contact with that person so that we have a specific person with whom to talk when we need publicity in the paper.

Next discussion: We need ACS net control volunteers for the year 2003.

Old Business:

Vomarc net control volunteers are needed for 2003, also. Ashley Gravatt, KG6LJP, is net control for November, 2002, and will take January, 2003. Other volunteers are: Ken, N6KM, February; Dan, KG6LJN, March; Jan, K9OOU, April; Mike, WB6TMH, May; Kermit, W6JFN, June; George, K6ITE, July. Any one wanting to volunteer, please contact, Jim Hill, K6UUW.

The Christmas dinner and installation of officers is

December 17, 2002, (Tue evening). Please remember to get your reservations and check to Steve, K2IYQ, as soon as possible so we can get the attendance count to the restaurant.

There was a VE session at McDougal Hall last Saturday, November 16th. There were six VE's. Two hams from Napa took their general written test and both passed.

Nominations were opened for officers for the coming year. They were: Jim Hill, President, George Maurer, Vice-President, Steve Todd, Treasurer, Joan Brady, Secretary, Mike Miller, Radio Officer. It was moved and seconded that a white ballot be cast. All approved. The training officer and membership chairman are appointed positions. The president take care of the appointments.

The ham fest for next year was discussed. The date is April 26, 2002, the fourth Saturday in April. As formerly discussed, we plan on having the Vets Building for the entire day and inviting other non-profit organizations to join us. The desire is to gain more exposure for the club by having more of the public attending. The decision is that NOW is the time to start contacting these organizations and the vendors and other ham clubs. Waiting until the first of the year is too late as most already have their calendars in place by then. Suggestions for non-profit clubs to invite include: Boy's & Girl's club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Vintage house, City of Sonoma, Search and Rescue, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol, Garden Club, Gem & Mineral Club, Pet's Lifeline, the Art Guild. Please send any other suggestions you may have to Darrell Jones, WD6BOR.

There was discussion of the need for a display of basic amateur radio, what it is, how it works, what it does. It was brought out that presently there are lots of people who are not familiar with ham radio. If we are opening the day to more general public who may not be familiar with ham radio, we need a more basic educational display. Bill Hillendahl suggested that Jim Haney is working on a 15 minute DVD explaining ham radio and emergency communications. It should be ready by the end of the year and may make a good presentation. The use of video tapes was also discussed.

This led to discussion of marketing ham radio in general. Jim Haney is working on the "Big Project" that is a marketing program designed to present amateur radio to schools. It was pointed out that most of the time when thinking of getting more people interested and involved in ham radio, the focus is on youth. However, there is an entire segment that can be targeted. This is the newly retired who may be looking for new

activities in which to become involved.

Bill Hillendahl mentioned that SCRA invites scout troups and civil air patrol groups to field day activities. They make a one hour taped presentation called "This is Amateur Radio" to the group and then invite them to participate in field day, even possibly staying over night. They plan other activities for the group such as contests, ball games, etc. to keep them interested, too. Bill said he is willing to do presentations to schools and other groups if we would like him to help.

Ashley mentioned that having some hams go to the school classes and help the kids do simple projects involving radios is fun for the kids and may be effective also.

Discussion then turned to the solar panel project and the trailer project. The trailer project is to fix the trailer so it will carry a sectional antenna and solar panels so when a site is reached, the antenna can be put up right on the trailer and the solar panels deployed enabling us to be in business in short order. We will try to develop a schedule for volunteers to have a regular time to work on the trailer.

The club has one 50' crank up antenna and one round 30' crank up pole plus a ham am rotator for sale. Mention was made of Hanks swap shop on 146.985 7pm on Tuesdays (www.hanksswapshop.com), and a swap net on 145.35 7:30PM Thursdays.

Darrel, WD6BOR, mentioned that he is still looking for donations of articles for the newspaper. Anyone who would like to write an article or send in a copy of an interesting article is welcome to do so. Please send to Darrel.

Everyone in attendance signed a get well card for Brownie Masten, wife of Frank Masten, AB6SG, who recently moved to central California.

Bill Hillendahl encourages us to visit other clubs. Not only is it interesting and we meet other hams, but we can get ideas from other clubs to use in our club. He visits other clubs regularly and is willing to have anyone who wishes go with him. He reported on the progress of the work together agreement between Ares and ACS in Sonoma County. He mentioned that this is reportedly going to be an El Nino year and there may be flooding so we should all keep our batteries charged and be ready to be called our if necessary.

VOMARC officers for 2003, left to right:
Steve Todd, K2IYQ, Treasurer
Joan Brady, W6WXU, Secretary
George Maurer, K6ITE, Vice President
Jim Hill, K6UUW, President

The program for the evening was a presentation by Steve Todd, K2IYQ, on building a code keyer out of parts from the heads (brushes) of Sonicare tooth brushes. He takes the brushes apart and uses the internal parts, magnets, etc. This produces a small compact code keyer easily used in the field.

Steve also mentioned an article out of a 1993 QST on hardware for computer controlling ham radio and displayed the boards that can be used for this purpose. There are several different reasons for wanting to interface radios with computers. These boards work with Icom, Yaesu, and Kenwood, and the plans can be taken directly out of the handbook.

Also, you may remember Steve and Herb Sullivan worked on the Oscar 40 sun sensor for AMSAT. AMSAT now has a new project in the works that will be a two year project (approximately). They have been asked to work on this one also. They are loolking for engineers, technicians, etc. - a group of about 30 people, to volunteer to help. If interested, contact Steve.

Kermit mentioned resistors are becoming hard to find and that some outlets such a radio shack have discontinued stocking them.

Jeff Basham, W2JAB, won the weekly drawing.

WD6BOR and KG6LJP at Oshkosh 2002

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 6 EDITION 12

A publication of the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President
Felice Navidad, N0EL – Vice President
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary
Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Treasurer
Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer
Ken McTaggert, N6KM – Club Trustee
Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Membership Chair
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month in McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, 15000 Arnold Drive, Eldridge. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as “SNV1EC”. “SNVGW” can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is “SNVND”.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Denny’s Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM or

K6UUW@VOM.COM or

K2IYQ@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

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Valley of the Moon ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95476

REMEMBER! THE DECEMBER VOMARC MEETING IS THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE WINEMAKER RESTAURANT, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT 6:00 P.M. CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2003 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.
ARRL Membership Dues: $39/year; Over 65, $34/year with proof of age; Family, No QST $8/year.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

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VOMARC:$_____ARRL:$_____TOTAL:$_____

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC –** 18958 Carillo Court, Sonoma, CA 95476-5570